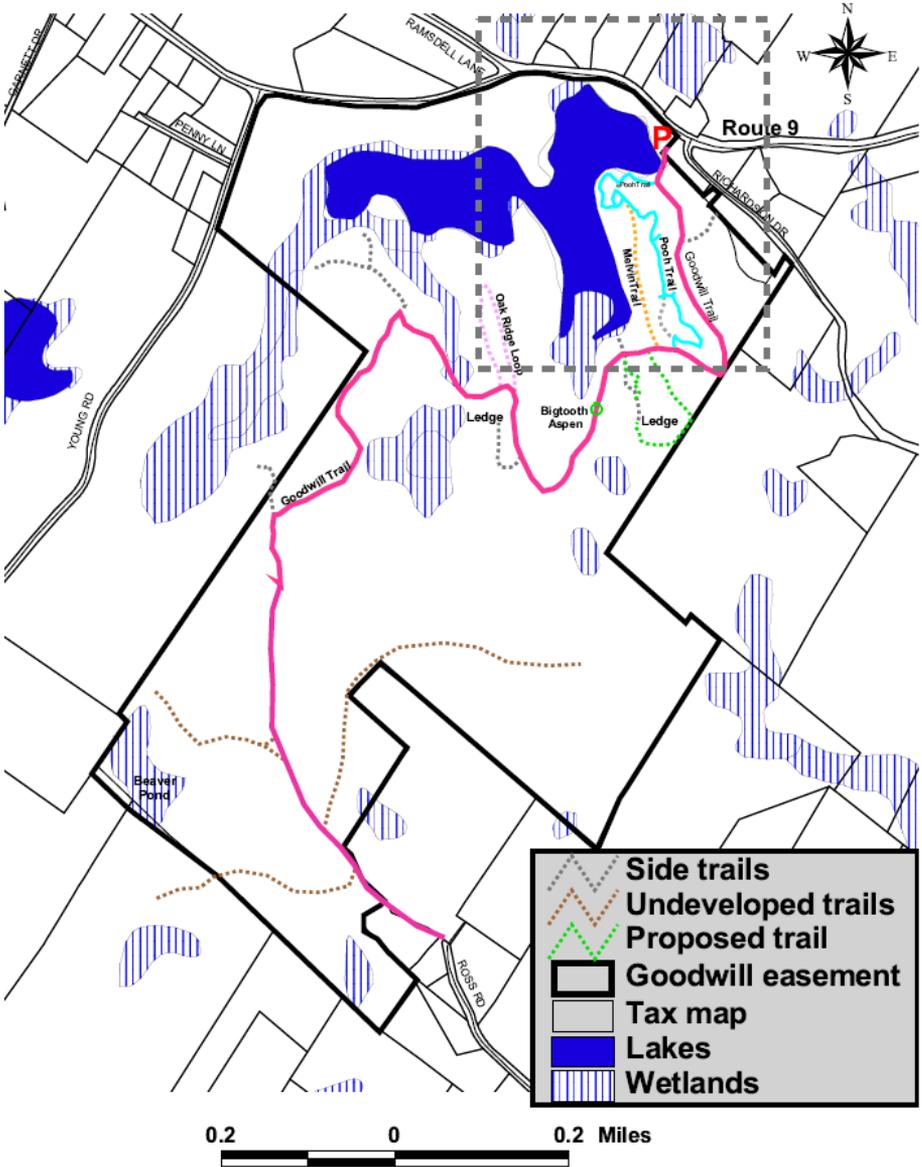


# GOODWILL CONSERVATION AREA



Pooh Trail Detail  
Map, p. 44

*“I’m not asking anybody,” said Eeyore. “I’m just telling everybody. We can look for the North Pole, or we can play ‘Here we go gathering Nuts and May’ with the end part of an ant’s nest. It’s all the same to me.”*

from Winnie the Pooh by A.A. Milne

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## **GOODWILL CONSERVATION AREA and WINNIE-THE-POOH TRAIL**

- Trail length:** Goodwill Trail, Route 9 to Ross Rd: 1.8 mi  
Pooh Trail, return via Goodwill: 0.9 mi  
Various side trails
- Difficulty:** Easy to moderate
- Location:** Route 9, west of Richardson Dr.
- Activities:** Hiking, XC skiing, snowshoeing, hunting, fishing, kayaking/canoeing\*; mountain biking and horseback riding except on signed trails; snowmobiling on Goodwill Trail only. The pond can be used for ice skating too.
- Parking:** Parking area is on Route 9, 1.5 miles west of its junction with Route 125, to the right of Richardson Dr. Parking on Richardson Dr. is prohibited by town ordinance. A parking area at the end of Ross Rd. is planned for the future. NOTE: the parking area is not generally plowed in the winter.
- Acreage:** 291

This 291-acre property was acquired by the town in 2007, and doubled in size in 2020. With funding from the town’s conservation fund and other sources, the original conservation area was purchased at a discounted price thanks to the generosity of former owner Carolyn Goodwill. The 2020 expansion again involved town funding, a grant from the state to protect drinking water resources, other agencies, and the patient cooperation and generosity of the Haley family and the estate of Stephan Rubinstein.

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\* Best in the spring when water is high and pond is not choked with lily pads

It is subject to a conservation easement held by the Southeast Land Trust of NH. The easement stipulates that the property cannot be developed and can only be used for passive recreation, forestry, and agriculture.



**Carolyn Goodwill**

In 2014 the Winnie-the-Pooh trail (see the following section) opened as part of an effort to get young children (and their parents and grandparents!) out of doors to appreciate and enjoy some of Barrington's natural beauty.

The most visible feature of the property is Richardson Pond, a small dammed pond that helps provide habitat for a wide variety of plant and animal species. The outflow forms a tributary of Mallego Brook, which eventually flows into the Madbury Reservoir. The property is also geologically interesting, as there are substantial ledges of a sort not common in the area. One can think of the Goodwill property as a miniature version of Pawtuckaway State Park.

There is a main hiking/snowmobile trail through the property (the Goodwill Trail), with several side trails.

Snowmobile access is from a trail a short way down Richardson Dr. **Snowmobiles are only allowed on the Goodwill trail/**

To get to the trails from the parking area you must cross the bridge over the dam that forms Richardson Pond. Just past the bridge the Pooh Trail goes to the right and the Goodwill Trail to the left.



Christopher Robin and Pooh  
Illustration by Ernest H. Shepard

## **Goodwill Trail and side trails**

Going left along the Goodwill trail, you will climb up away from the brook, and pass the entrance for snowmobiles on the left. After looping around next to an old stone wall that marks the property boundary, you will pass the exit from the Pooh Trail and then come to the Melvin Trail. The Melvin Trail was named for Barrington resident and long-time outdoors enthusiast and volunteer Anne Melvin, who helped design and build it. It offers good views of Richardson Pond and the marsh before connecting to the Pooh Trail.

A bit farther down the Goodwill Trail there is a steep trail to the left that will take you up on top of one of the property's ledge outcrops. Please be careful, as this trail is very steep and is a bit risky under any conditions. The Trails Committee plans to relocate it in the near future so that it is neither as dangerous nor as conducive to erosion. The ledge's round, rocky top sports a fine view of the surrounding forest. Also, note the gnarled old pitch pine trees at the top. Pitch pines have three needles per bundle, while the more common white pine has five. Red pines, not seen on this property, have two.

Come down from the ledge the same way you came up, and be very cautious! Almost directly opposite the trail to the ledge is a short spur down to the marsh, where you might spy frogs, turtles, or waterfowl.

Continuing on the Goodwill trail you'll encounter a large Big-tooth Aspen tree, with beautiful deeply grooved bark. Like its relative the Quaking Aspen, the leaves of this tree will shake rapidly back and forth in only a mild breeze. If you examine one of its leaves you can see why: its *petiole* (the stem that holds the leaf) is flattened rather than round and thus causes the leaf to wobble. Compare this to the leaf of any other type of tree and you'll see (or feel) the difference.

As the plaque next to it states, this aspen was once the largest known of its species known in Strafford County. A bigger one has since been found, but it's still an impressive tree, and the NH Big Tree Program, which keeps records, has the philosophy of "once a champ, always a champ."

Further along, on both sides you will see more evidence of the ledges that are a prominent feature of the Goodwill Conservation Area. Another steep path to the top of a ledge exits on the left and takes you to a lovely clear area where you can look down on the trail below you.

A bit past this path to the ledge there is a fork in the trail: the Goodwill Trail continues to the left, but the Oak Ridge Loop on the right makes a pleasant ~1/4 mile diversion that takes you within sight of Richardson Pond again. It returns to the Goodwill trail only about 150' past where it started.

There are a couple more side trails off of the Goodwill trail, and they take you down near marshes and wetlands. At this time they are not very well defined, especially at their ends.

The addition of 135 acres to the Goodwill Conservation Area in 2020 extends the Goodwill Trail on to Ross Rd. (reached from Beauty Hill Rd.), where another parking area is planned. The trail system on this part of the property is as yet undeveloped and unsigned, but old woods roads, etc. are present. A beautiful beaver pond is a highlight.

## **Winnie-the-Pooh Trail** (map on next page)

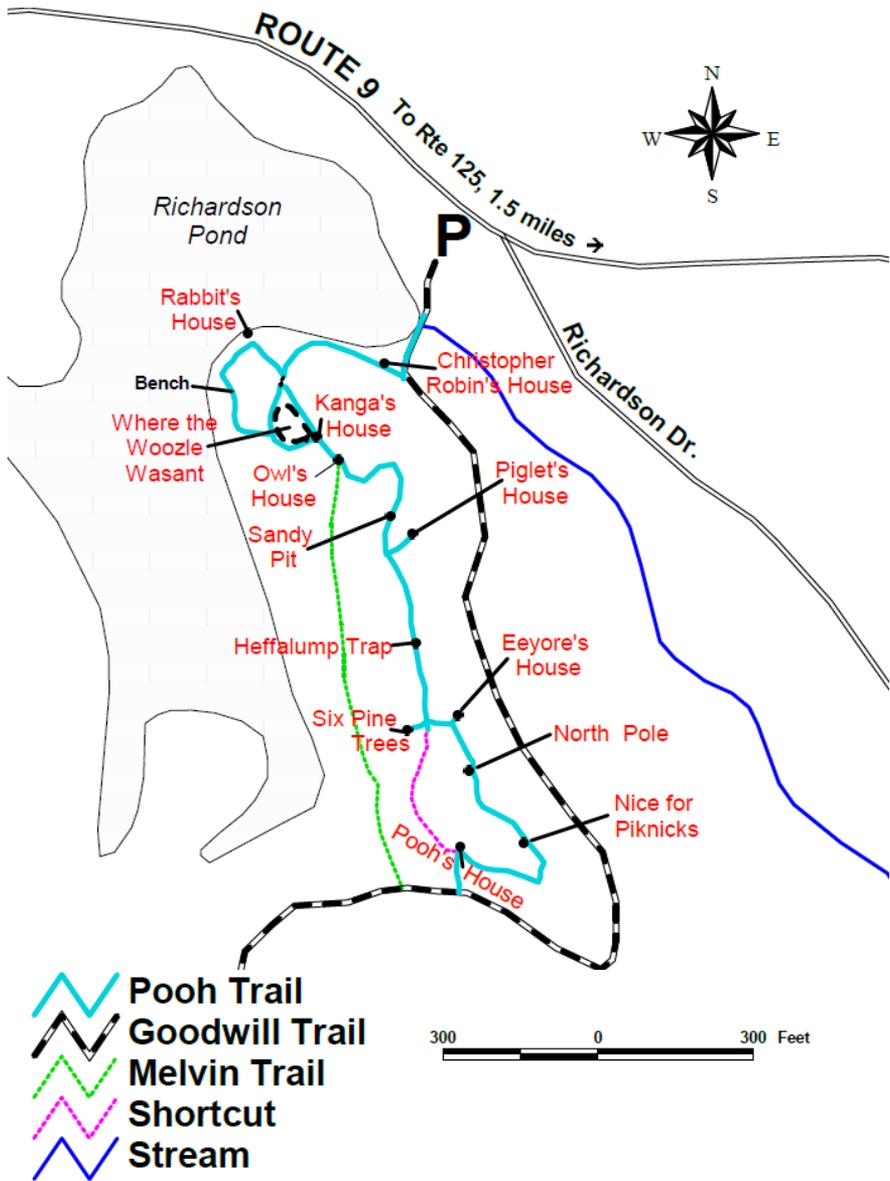


**Welcome to the Winnie-the-Pooh Trail (aka the Pooh Trail)! Please enjoy both the natural environment in which it is set and the signs and pictures celebrating the children's classics with text by A.A. Milne and illustrations by E.H. Shepard. The trail is well signed and marked with white blazes. It is less than a mile round trip.**

**To get to the Pooh Trail you must cross the bridge over the dam that forms Richardson Pond. A short ways past the bridge the Pooh Trail goes to the right.**

**To best appreciate the area marked on the map as "Where the Woozle Wasnt," it would be good to have read the chapter "Pooh and Piglet Go Hunting" in Winnie the Pooh.**

# Winnie-the-Pooh Trail





**Looking for Christopher Robin**